



BSW
Timber

Timber Decking Installation Guidance

A step-by-step guide from BSW Timber



Our timber decking is good looking, long lasting and easy to install.

Manufactured using quality timber from well managed sources, our decking is high pressure preservative treated with Tanalith® E to cope with the great British climate for years to come.

Please visit bsw.co.uk for a full list of sizes available.



Building the subframe

- Check there are no drainage problems in the area where you plan to build your deck. The deck design must maximise airflow through and around the construction to ensure good ventilation.



- Mark out the site accurately and ensure it is square.
- Decks can be free standing or attached to the side of a house. When attached to a house the finished deck level must be at least two brick courses below the damp proof course. If this is not practical, a gap must be left between the house and the deck to add drainage. A ledger board is bolted to the wall and used to carry and support the joists.

- This can be done by using a 47 x 150mm treated joist. The ledger board must be 10mm from the wall to ensure sufficient drainage.



- Do not lay ground level decks directly onto grass. Remove all turf and cover the ground with permeable membrane or polythene (with holes pierced) and then gravel to prevent weeds growing. Lay the framing on concrete paving slabs bedded into position or on an existing level concrete area.
- For elevated decks 100 x 100 UC4 posts should be used, positioned no more than 1800mm apart. At least half the length of the post should be sunk into the ground and fixed with concrete.

- Beams are attached to the posts using 150mm galvanised screws and the joist frame is fixed to the beams by skew nailing or screwing.
- The frame is constructed from easi-edge 47 x 150mm treated joist timbers.
- Joists should be fixed at 400mm centres for maximum support, using 100mm galvanised screws, nails or joist hangers.
- Noggins (offcuts of joist) are used to prevent the joists from twisting or buckling. These are attached at 90° to the joist in a staggered manner at 1200mm centres.

The right tools for the job



You will need:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- String
- End grain preservative
- Brush
- Saw
- Cordless drill/screwdriver or Paslode nail gun with decking screw
- Screwdriver
- Galvanised screws
- Decking materials

Deckboards you'll need...

Square Metres	Number of 3.6m deckboards
1	3
2	6
3	8
4	11
5	14
6	17
7	19
8	22
9	25
10	28

Above figures are for guidance only, based on 32x100 deckboards. Allow for a few extra boards for cutting and wastage.

Installing your deck

- Boards can be fixed with 75mm galvanised screws.
- It will often be necessary to join boards along their length. This must always be done over a joist. Use additional sections of joist to increase the area for fixing.
- Screw heads should always be countersunk below the surface of the deck to avoid injury to feet. Check these once or twice a season.



- Always treat cut ends and drill holes with a suitable end grain preservative.

- 75mm screws allow you to take up a board without causing damage.



- Deckboards should be pre-drilled before screwing to avoid splitting.



- Deckboards should be fixed along their length to every supporting joist using 2 fixings, per joist.

- Make sure you leave at least 25mm from the ends and edges of the boards when installing the fixings.



- Leave a 6-9mm gap between each board when installing as it is natural for the deckboards to swell when wet and shrink when dry.

Before you get started



- Check the depth and position of any underground pipes, cables or services under the proposed deck and allow access to any manhole covers or inspection chambers.
- Consider the size and use of the deck. If it is to be used for dining, there needs to be plenty of room for tables or chairs.

- BSW decking products are designed to be used on decks up to 600mm high. An elevated deck needs to be designed so that it is capable of taking the expected loading. If in doubt seek professional advice.
- Timber decks differ from conventional patios and terraces most significantly in their elevation and general height of construction.
- For all but the simplest, low-level garden deck, property owners should satisfy themselves that planning regulations do not apply to their proposed structure.
- In addition to contacting the Local Authority, we strongly recommend that you talk to all your neighbours about your plans. Neighbour objections are the most usual reason for planning

refusal or enforcement notices after completion.

- Local Authorities can insist that structures are dismantled and removed where consent should have been obtained, but was not.

Situations requiring planning permission

- Where the deck is situated within 20 metres of a highway.
- Where the deck platform is more than 300mm (1ft) from the ground.
- If the structure would affect the amenity value or privacy of neighbouring properties.
- If the deck is attached to a listed building or situated in a conservation area or National Park.

Maintaining your deck

- All fixings should be checked and tightened where necessary.



- Decks should be cleaned on a regular basis, either by simply brushing the deck using a long bristled brush and ensuring that the gaps between

components are also cleaned, or by using power washer for a more thorough cleaning. NB, Power washing should not be carried out until all joints and connections have been checked and tightened. Avoid excessive pressure and keep water volumes to a minimum.

- Specialist deck cleaning solutions are available and can be useful on heavily stained or weathered decks but should not be necessary if the deck has been maintained regularly.
- If the underside of the deck is accessible, remove any debris and check the position and integrity of weed control arrangements.



- Your deck will benefit from an annual treatment of water repellent to protect it.
- Colour stains can be applied to your deck. A suitable exterior, solvent based product should be used.



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